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# Military muddled by new espionage

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There appears to be an increasing number of trusted members of the military turning secrets over to the enemy, mostly for money, and no foolproof method exists to prevent such treason, the Pentagon's counterintelligence chief said.

Britt Snider, director for counterintelligence and security policy, also said the case of retired Navy Warrant Officer John Anthony Walker and his son, Seaman Michael Lance Walker, appears to be "a very serious" breach of security.

Mr. Walker was arrested last Monday after authorities said he tried to pass secret Navy documents to the Soviets. His son, Michael Walker, was arrested Wednesday aboard the nuclear-powered carrier Nimitz, where he worked as an administrative clerk, and was returned to this country Saturday.

Both men will be tried in federal court in Baltimore.

"No matter what you do and what kind of programs you have and what kind of resources you put into it, you're ultimately never going to stop an individual, who decides to do something like this, from doing it," Mr. Snider said in an interview with The Washington Times.

"It happens not all that often, but too often for us," the official said.

"To me, it seems like we've had more [breaches by the military] in the last couple of years. . . . I've been here about eight years total in this job [and] the last two or three years seem to me to be an increase in the numbers we had before that," Mr. Snider said.

"It's usually money. That's what it appears to be in this case," he said of the Walkers.

Asked how serious the security breach is in the case of the Walkers, Mr. Snider replied: "From what we know on a preliminary basis, it's very serious.

"From the jobs that we know they had, and the access the father had over the years, lead us to believe this was a very serious compromise," he said.

"Damage assessment will be done

at the defense department, [and] we will try to pin down specifically what [they] had access to," Mr. Snider said.

"Obviously, the damage that one person [in the military] is capable of doing is really enormous when you think about it, particularly the damage that one person with particularly sensitive access can do," he said.

But, the official commented, "I don't know that anyone's figured out a way to stop it from happening, no foolproof way."

He called the alleged father-son spying team "A very bizarre circumstance."

Mr. Snider said that it was too early to tell if anything new can be learned from the Walkers' case in terms of combating spies.

Last year, the defense department started giving lie detector tests to several thousand people with "special access" to the government's most sensitive secret information.

"We're hoping that will be a deterrent with regard to sensitive programs," Mr. Snider said.

But, this "special access" didn't stop Michael Walker from passing secrets about his ship, the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, because he wasn't part of the program, and wasn't subjected to the polygraph lie detector tests, the official said.

"It wouldn't stop the son, no, because he wouldn't be subjected to that requirement. He wouldn't be in a special access program to begin with. . . . I don't know of anything that would rule [spying] out for a person who's intent on doing it. You would hope we would be able to detect it in time," the official said.

He said it would be politically as well as physically impossible to administer lie detector tests to the 4 million government employees with access to classified information of one kind or another.

A passive system, SOSUS only listens. The Navy has been developing another elaborate detection system, a type of powerful sonar, that would send sound waves through the water to bounce off solid objects such as submarines.

The sounds would be intercepted by listening devices scattered in deep waters off other countries and not tied to the coastal United States. The sound waves could be generated from various mobile platforms, including ships.

Navy officials said it is too early to know whether they will have to step up such advanced antisubmarine warfare efforts.

An FBI agent testified last week that John Walker may have been sending the Soviets information for 15 to 18 years.